



OEMC/ESP Media Contact: Megan Castle

Megan.Castle@state.co.us

(303) 894-2383 x1211

HRWC Media Contact: Mike Hansen

mikeh@housingresourceswc.org

(970) 241-2871 x112

WEATHERIZATION DAY 2003 PROCLAIMED BY GOVERNOR OWENS
Grand Junction Celebrates on October 28

Grand Junction, CO, October 28, 2003 – October is Energy Awareness month and Governor Bill Owens proclaimed October 22 to be “Colorado Weatherization Day” in order to raise awareness of the benefits created by the program that provides free energy efficiency services to income-qualified recipients. The program is funded through the US Department of Energy, Colorado Department of Human Services, and utilities such as Xcel Energy, Inc. to provide energy assistance to low-income families. On the Western Slope, weatherization services are handled by Housing Resources of Western Colorado.

“The best defense against higher gas prices is a properly weatherized and insulated house. This is a real solution to the problem of higher gas prices, not just a government subsidy to pay the higher gas bills. This money is spent back in groceries, clothing and food for the family,” said Governor Owens in the Proclamation.

The Governor’s proclamation highlighted Xcel Energy’s involvement to the Weatherization program: “Over the past 10 years, Xcel has contributed over \$26 million, weatherized nearly 27,000 homes, bringing over \$19 million in cumulative energy savings. Xcel’s participation has made it possible for Colorado families to conserve energy and reduce the cost for heating, cooling, and electricity.”

After weatherization, families experience an average energy use reduction of 20 percent or more. However, one in four families save 37 percent in bills. With the rising prices in natural gas, implementing successful energy conservation programs are essential. Each year, Colorado households experience improved energy efficiency, financial, and health and safety gains through the services provided by the program.

Housing Resources of Western Colorado (HRWC) is one of eight agencies in Colorado that has professionally trained crews using computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic equipment to identify energy-saving strategies in single-family, multi-family, and mobile homes. Cost-effective weatherization measures and those that are essential for health and safety are then performed, including, but not limited to, carbon monoxide testing, installation of insulation, repair and replacement of furnaces or boilers.

Approximately 400 homes are weatherized each year by HRWC in the Western Slope. These weatherized households experience improved energy efficiency, financial, health and safety gains.

In addition to demonstrating weatherization techniques, a case study will be presented from Grand Junction’s 2002 Weatherization Day home. The home’s energy audit identified health and safety problems, which were addressed. Since weatherization, the home has benefited by a reduction in 37 percent in energy bills.

Energy Saving Partners (ESP) runs Colorado’s Weatherization programs through the Governor’s Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC). Grand Junction is the second event in the state to celebrate Weatherization Day, with the first event held October 22 in Denver. For more information or how to qualify for weatherization services, contact ESP at 1-888-HEATLINE or in Grand Junction, call HRWC at (970) 241-2871.

–End–